

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12 were canceled; and claims 4, 10, and 11 were rewritten as independent claims. Rewritten claim 4 includes the limitations of original claims 1 and 4. Rewritten claim 10 includes the limitations of original claims 6, 9, and 10, and rewritten claim 11 includes the limitations of original claims 6, 9, and 11. Based on the foregoing amendments, only claims 4, 10, and 11 remain in the application for consideration by the examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) for the purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance or for the purposes of appeal. The outstanding Official action and the Official action mailed April 21, 2004, objected to claims 4, 10, and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendments, claims 4, 10, and 11 were rewritten as independent claims including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they depended. Accordingly, claims 4, 10, and 11 are now in condition for allowance. The remaining claims were canceled in the foregoing amendments. For these reasons, applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered under the

provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) for the purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance or for the purposes of appeal.

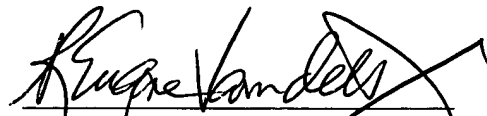
The Official action set forth a single rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,257,719 of Pavlak. However, this rejection is now moot, because these claims were canceled above.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 4, 10, and 11 is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the foregoing is a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed September 9, 2004, in the event the examiner has any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefore, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged or credited to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,  
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